



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
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MEDIA RELEASE
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PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

HUDSON MAN CONVICTED OF FEDERAL WEAPON CHARGE

Re: United States v. Michael HUGHES

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE -- United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, Hudson Police Chief Richard Gendron, and Clifford Ellston, the Resident Agent in Charge of the New Hampshire Office of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, announced that **Michael Hughes**, 25, of Hudson, NH was convicted on March 30, 2005 of federal weapon possession charges.

HUGHES entered a guilty plea before U.S. District Judge Joseph A. DiClerico to an information charging him with being a convicted felon in possession of a semi-automatic assault rifle at his Hudson residence on November 19, 2004. HUGHES was detained without bail pending his sentencing hearing to be held in U.S. District Court in Concord on June 29, 2005. He faces a maximum sentence of 10 years imprisonment.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated: "This case exemplifies this Office's commitment to aggressive prosecution of the federal firearms laws as mandated by DOJ's "Project Safe Neighborhoods" initiative. Keeping firearms out of the hands of convicted drug drug felons is one of our main objectives. This office will continue to vigorously enforce the federal firearms laws as we expand the implementation of Project Safe Neighborhoods in the District of New Hampshire."

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a federal program to reduce gun violence in New Hampshire by aggressive investigation and prosecution of firearm offenders, education of the public and training of law enforcement officers about firearms laws.

The prosecution against HUGHES, part of the Department of Justice's "Project Safe Neighborhoods" (PSN) initiative, resulted from an investigation conducted by the Hudson Police Department, the N.H. Department of Corrections, and the U.S Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The prosecution is being handled by First Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante.